

Marble Hill Press

MADE IN CHINA
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A queue or not a queue; that is the question in China.

The family cat is by no means safe in this season of rabbit stew.

Girl arrested in Chicago claims she is an aviator. The police say she is flighty.

The air on the top floor of New York's new 30-story hotel ought to be tolerably good.

Any ill wind carries orders to the manufacturer of storm doors at this season of the year.

Seedless lemons are developed by grafting. So are the kind sometimes handed to officeholders.

Chicago philanthropists are about to start a magazine for poets. It will be read chiefly by poets.

Fifty-seven varieties of weather in 24 hours keep the average man guessing and the doctors on the run.

It should never be forgotten that American names look as funny to the Chinese as their names look to us.

People love the spectacular. With-out a long tail a comet would attract no more attention than the moon.

Gum-chewing has been abolished in the navy. Now can the ghosts of Paul Jones, Decatur and Farragut rest in peace.

A doctor operating for appendicitis cut a man open on the wrong side. He no doubt thought he was left-handed.

It may have been noticed that no aviators have been seen skylarking around since the hunting season opened.

As it costs 5 cents to send a letter to China the revolution will not receive as much advice as it might otherwise.

The Harvard professor who claims that he is able to catch fish with noise probably did his experimenting with suckers.

They talk of the eye kiss, the soul kiss and other modern inventions, but where's the matter with the old-fashioned smack?

A New York cook has been arrested for stealing a steak. Still his sentence oughtn't to be as severe as though he had stolen an egg.

The New York man who is looking for a wife that doesn't wear rats, puffs or flabby skirts might not want her if he found her.

Mice are being used by a Chicago woman scientist in the study of cancer. Does she stand on the table to get her studying?

St. Louis doctor's wife wants a divorce because her husband never kisses her except by mail. Evidently he is afraid of microbes.

As long as they are comfortable, women probably do not care how they look in the sublimated bathrobes they wear on the street.

The prevailing manner of dressing women's hair no longer has an excuse. The hairdressers and wigmakers declare it antiquated.

Some of the beaver furs make a nature lover feel sad when he thinks of the poor muskrats that had to be slaughtered to make them.

A bachelor who lived sixty-eight years in one New Jersey hotel leaves this message to young men: "Marry!"

Some boys leave the farm with the expectation of studying law and going to congress, and others hope to become phenomenal ball players.

A London paper says the war in China may last for years. It will certainly take a long time to exhaust the available supply of victims.

The higher education is not a failure after all, for the manager of a Kansas employment bureau says college students make the best farm hands.

Aerial propellers are said to be used to move canal boats in France. We presume the propellers are trained to duck when any one yells "Low bridge!"

Some people are natural born pessimists. A Kansan is said to be deeply grieved over the news that one of his relatives has left him a fortune.

The United States is about to deprive England of the glory of having the heaviest battleship; but we may expect England immediately to lay down the keel of a battleship that will be heavier than the heaviest one in the United States.

A London doctor makes the announcement that patients who eat with their fingers get well quicker than others. We are waiting for some country doctor to find that patients who drink their coffee from saucers get along better than others.

TAFT ON FINANCES

CONDITION OF FEDERAL TREASURY IS REPORTED TO BE EXCELLENT.

CURRENCY REFORM IS URGED

Prompt Action on Report of Monetary Board is Recommended—For First Time in 27 Years Postal Department Shows Surplus—Cut in Expenses Shown.

Washington.—A special message on the subject of finances was read to congress. A synopsis follows:

The financial condition of the government, as shown at the close of the last fiscal year, June 30, 1911, was very satisfactory. The ordinary receipts into the general fund, excluding postal revenues, amounted to \$3,122,214.99, and the disbursements from the general fund for current expenses and capital outlays, including postal and Panama Canal disbursements, including the interest on the public debt, amounted to \$2,477,507.30, leaving a surplus of \$646,707.69.

The postal revenue receipts amounted to \$27,579,223.80, while the payments made for the postal service from the postal revenues amounted to \$27,560,706.45, which left a surplus of postal receipts over disbursements of \$18,517.35, the first time in 27 years in which a surplus occurred.

The interest-bearing debt of the United States June 30, 1911, amounted to \$2,452,130. The debt on which interest had ceased amounted to \$1,870,826.24, and the debt bearing no interest, including greenbacks, national bank notes to be redeemed, and fractional currency, amounted to \$2,581,317.43, or a total of interest and non-interest bearing debt amounting to \$4,322,956.67.

The actual disbursements, exclusive of those for the Panama Canal and for the postal service for the year ending June 30, 1911, were \$2,417,987.89. The actual disbursements for the year ending June 30, 1910, exclusive of the Panama Canal and the postal service, disbursements were \$2,409,701.08, making a decrease of \$8,286.81 in yearly expenditures in the year 1911 under that of 1910.

For the year ending June 30, 1912, the estimated receipts, exclusive of the postal revenues, are \$3,122,214.99, while the total estimated disbursements, exclusive of the Panama Canal and postal disbursements payable from postal revenues, will amount to \$2,417,987.89. This is a decrease in the 1912 estimates from that of the 1911 estimates of \$1,226,926.90.

As to the postal revenue, the expansion of the business in that department, the normal increase in the post office and the extension of the service, will increase the outlay to the sum of \$27,579,223.80, but as the department was self-sustaining this year the transactions of a department like the post office department, which relies for its support upon its receipts, in calculations heretofore made for comparison of economies in each year, it has been the proper custom only to take into account the deficit in the post office department which was paid out of the treasury.

In the treasury department the efficiency and economy work has been kept steadily up. Provision is made for the collection of 104 positions during the coming year. Two hundred and sixty-seven statutory positions were eliminated during the last year in the office of the treasury in Washington, and 141 positions in the year 1910, making an elimination of 408 statutory positions since March 4, 1909, and this has been done without the discharge of anybody, because the normal resignations and deaths have been equal to the elimination of the places, a system of transfers having taken care of the persons whose positions were dropped out. In the field service of the department, too, 1,123 positions have been eliminated down to the present time, making a total net reduction of all treasury positions to the number of 1,501. Moreover, the efficiency of the work of the department has increased.

Monetary Reform.

A matter of first importance that will come before congress for action at this session is monetary reform. The congress has itself arranged an early introduction of this great question through the report of its monetary commission. This commission was appointed to recommend a solution of the banking and currency problems as long confronting the nation and to furnish the facts and data necessary to enable the congress to take action.

In order to do its work with thoroughness and precision this commission has some time to make its report. The commission is undoubtedly hoping for as prompt action on the report as the conveniences of the congress can permit. The recognition of the gross imperfections and marked inadequacy of our banking and currency system even in its present condition, and later there has matured a recognition of the fact that our system is responsible for the extraordinary depreciation, waste and business paralysis of our recurring periods of panic. Through the methods of the monetary commission have for a considerable time been working in the open, and while large numbers of the people have been openly working with them, and while the press has largely noted and discussed this work as it has proceeded, so that the report of the commission promises to represent a national movement, the details of the report are still being considered. I can not, therefore, do much more at this time than commend the immense importance of monetary reform, urge prompt consideration and action when the commission's report is received, and express my satisfaction that the plan to be proposed promises to embrace main features that, having met the approval of a great preponderance of the practical and professional opinion of the country, are likely to meet equal approval in congress.

No Doubt About One Thing.

"It does not always take brains to make money," observed the father of the college boy as he looked over that young man's expense bill, "but it sure does take money to make brains."

Too Busy for Serious Things.

The growing indifference of the age is appalling; men are too-busy with their pleasures, their money-making, their politics, and a thousand things.

Lost for Good.

Redd—"Did you hear about my neighbor losing control of his motor car?" Greene—"No, I didn't." Redd—"Well, he did. The sheriff got it now!"

Luxury in Cigars.

The Rothschilds smoke the most costly cigars that are made—the Henry Clay Sobranes—which cost \$1.50 each. These are wrapped in gold leaf and packed in little inside cedar wood cabinets.

Too Busy for Serious Things.

The growing indifference of the age is appalling; men are too-busy with their pleasures, their money-making, their politics, and a thousand things.

There is now before congress a bill, the purpose of which is to increase the efficiency and decrease the expense of the army. It contains four principal features: First, a consolidation of the general staff with the adjutant general's and the inspector general's department; second, a consolidation of the quartermaster's department with the subsistence and pay department; third, the creation of an army service corps, and fourth, an extension of the enlistment period from three to five years.

With the establishment of an army service corps, as proposed in the bill, I am thoroughly in accord and am convinced that the establishment of such a corps will result in a material economy and a very great increase of efficiency in the army. It has repeatedly been recommended by me and my predecessors. I also believe that a consolidation of the staff corps can be made with a resulting increase in efficiency and economy, but not along the lines provided in the bill under consideration.

The army of the United States is in good condition.

The Panama Canal.

The very satisfactory progress made on the Panama Canal last year has continued, and there is every reason to believe that the canal will be completed as early as the 1st of July, 1912, something unforeseen occurs. This is about 18 months before the time promised by the engineers.

Waterway From Lakes to the Gulf.

The project for a navigable waterway from Lake Michigan to the mouth of the Illinois river, and thence via the Mississippi to the Gulf of Mexico, is one of national importance. In view of the work already accomplished by the sanitary district of Chicago, an agency of the state of Illinois, which has constructed the most difficult and costly stretch of this waterway and made it an asset of the nation, and in view of the fact that the people of Illinois have authorized the expenditure of \$20,000,000 to carry this waterway 62 miles farther to Utica, I feel that it is fitting that this work should be supplemented by the government, and that the expenditures recommended by the special board of engineers on the waterway from Utica to the mouth of the Illinois river be made upon lines which will provide a waterway for the nation, should otherwise benefit the state to the fullest extent.

The question of the liability of the master to his crew for personal injuries to such as are occasioned by his fault has been abandoned in most civilized countries and provision made whereby the employee injured in the course of his employment is compensated. This is the principle of working ability irrespective of negligence. The principle upon which such provision proceeds is that accidental injuries to workmen in modern industry, with its complexity and inherent dangers arising from complicated machinery and the use of the great forces of steam and electricity, should be regarded as risks of the industry and the loss borne in some equitable proportion by those who for their own profit engage therein. In recognition of this the last congress authorized the appointment of a commission to investigate the subject of employees' liability and workmen's compensation, and to report the result of their investigations. This commission was appointed and has been at work, holding hearings, gathering data and considering the subject, and it is expected will be able to report by the first of the year, in accordance with the provisions of the law.

Parcel Post.

Steps should be taken immediately for the establishment of a parcel post. In the estimate of appropriations needed for the maintenance of the postal service for the ensuing fiscal year an item of \$15,000,000 has been inserted to cover the preliminary expense of establishing a parcel post on rural mail routes, as well as to cover an investigation having for its object the final establishment of a general parcel post on all railway and steamboat transportation routes.

The suggestion that we have a general parcel post has awakened great opposition on the part of those who think that it will have the effect of destroying the business of the country storekeeper. Instead of doing this, I think the change will greatly increase business to the benefit of all. The reduction in the cost of living, holding being about ought to make it coming certain.

The Navy Department.

On the 24 of November last I reviewed the fighting fleet of battleships and other vessels assembled in New York harbor, consisting of 24 battleships, 2 armored cruisers, 2 cruisers, 22 destroyers, 12 torpedo boats, 4 submarines, and other attendant vessels, making 58 vessels of all classes, of a tonnage of 576,624 tons.

The fleet was deficient in the number of torpedo destroyers in cruizers, and in cruisers, as well as in large battleship cruisers, which are becoming a very important feature of foreign navies, notably the British, German and Japanese.

The building plan for this year contemplates two battleships and two cruisers. This is being carried out and smaller vessels can be built more rapidly in case of emergency than the battleships, and we certainly ought to continue the policy of two battleships a year until after the Panama Canal is finished and until in our first line and in our reserve line we can number 40 available vessels of proper armament and size.

Like the Treasury Department and the War Department, the Navy Department has given much attention to economy in administration, and has cut down a number of unnecessary expenses and reduced its estimates except for construction and the increase that involves.

I wish to renew again my recommendation that all the local offices throughout the country, including collectors of internal revenue, collectors of customs, postmasters of all four classes, immigration commissioners and marshals should be by few covered into the classified service, the necessity for confirmation by the senate be removed, and the president and the others, whose time is now taken up in distributing this patronage and in the duties of the government, in accordance with the recommendation of the senators and congressmen of the majority party should be relieved from this burden. I am convinced that such a change would greatly reduce the cost of administering the government, and that it would add greatly to its efficiency.

Cousin of King Robbed.

Geneva.—An Italian prince, said to be the Duchess d'Aosta, cousin of the king of Italy, is reported to have been robbed here of jewels worth \$275,000.

Eighteen Holdup Men Sentenced.

Winnipeg, Man.—Eighteen holdup men, arrested here in the last two weeks, were sentenced to terms of from five to seven years in the penitentiary. The city has been terrorized for the last ten days by thugs.

D. A. R. Editor Is Dead.

Cleveland, O., Dec. 23.—Mrs. Elroy M. Avery, aged 67, editor of the official paper of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and prominent in club and educational work here, died of heart failure.

Morris Plea for New Trial Jan. 13.

1911 IMMIGRATION FALLS ONE-THIRD

THIRD-CLASS PASSENGERS GOING ABROAD ALSO OUTNUMBER LAST YEAR'S TOTAL.

CROWD EUROPEAN SHIPS

Reduction in Eleven Months Is 30 Per Cent or More From 1910 Figures for Year—Lower Now Than Any Time Since 1908.

New York.—One of the greatest slumps in immigration recorded at the port of New York is being written into the records at Ellis Island during the closing days of the year. Already the records show that nearly 300,000 fewer immigrants have landed there up to the present time than for the corresponding period in 1910 and indications are, Commissioner Williams states, that there will be a reduction of 20 per cent or more from 1910 figures for the year. The incoming tide of humanity is lower now than at any time since 1908.

While the tide is at its ebb, every ship leaving for Europe is crowded as never before. One vessel sailing a couple of days ago left 500 stowage passengers on the wharf because of inability to find accommodations aboard for them. During the first ten days of December, 1910, 13,706 third-class passengers sailed for Europe; this year 25,245. Outbound vessels carried nearly 50 per cent more third-class passengers this year than last.

Figures for Six Years.

Year. Arrivals. Departures.

1911 781,958 486,704

1910 1,102,938 359,574

1909 1,088,422 280,628

1908 550,758 654,238

1907 1,170,295 537,511

1906 1,329,585 322,506

The figures for 1911 are incomplete, having been computed only until December 1, and all figures refer to third-class passengers only. William Williams, commissioner of immigration, said: "It may mean that industrial conditions here are much disturbed. It may mean that third-class passengers are more prosperous and are going to and from more than usual or that the long-looked-for natural ebb in the tide has come."

Persia Yields to Czar.

Tehran.—Parliament yielded to demands of Russia that W. M. M. Shuster, the American treasurer general be dismissed. The action is in direct opposition to the people, who have loyally supported the young American during his incumbency.

Shuster did not express any astonishment over the action of parliament. He declared he was perfectly satisfied to withdraw, provided the Persian parliament was convinced that such action was necessary for the welfare of Persia.

King George Kills 3 Tigers.

Delhi.—Three tigers and three rhinoceros fell victims to King George's gun during his hunt as the guest of the Rajah of Nepal according to notices received. The king is being praised for his excellent marksmanship.

New Year Lid to Be Off in Chicago.

Chicago.—Police Chief McWeeny's Christmas present to saloon keepers and cafe proprietors was announced in the granting of permission for them to sell liquor up to 2 o'clock a. m. on New Year's morning. One o'clock is the regular closing time.

Congress Takes Recess.

Washington.—Both houses of congress adjourned for the holiday recess and will reassemble at noon, January 3.

President Estrada Dead.

Guayaquil.—President Estrada of Ecuador died here suddenly. He was elected president in 1910 and took office January 1 of this year.

Cousin of King Robbed.

Geneva.—An Italian prince, said to be the Duchess d'Aosta, cousin of the king of Italy, is reported to have been robbed here of jewels worth \$275,000.

British Steamer Sinks.

Penzance, Eng.—The British steamer Helopes, of 1,797 tons, capsized and sank three miles to the south of Penzance. The crew was saved and landed here.

MISSOURI NEWS

Postoffice Vault Is Robbed.

Warrensburg.—The vault of the Warrensburg postoffice was blown and the postoffice partially robbed. Six business houses were entered and robbed. After wrecking the vault at the postoffice the robbers prepared to blow the safe, but evidently were frightened away, leaving the building after robbing the money trays, which had been deposited in the vault after the day's work. Several thousand dollars' worth of stamps lying in plain view were not molested, only a small number of stamps being missed. The safes of Ross Bros., grocers, and William Lowes, lumberman, were blown and considerable money taken.

Safe Is Blown for \$5.60.

Excelsior Springs.—Crackmen blew open the safe of Buck Bros' hardware store and obtained \$5.60. They were interrupted before they could penetrate to the inner compartment of the safe, which contained several hundred dollars. The explosion brought police to the scene within five minutes, but the men had escaped. A bloodhound followed the trail to a creek about a hundred yards away and then lost it. This is the third time the store has been robbed and each time the loss has been small.

Wreck Damages Cut Down.

Jefferson City.—In Division No. 2 of the supreme court Judge Brown affirmed the judgment of the circuit court of Jackson county in a damage suit for \$10,000 instituted by Nancy Morris of Kansas City against the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad company, but with the consent of the other judges reduced the amount of judgment to \$7,500. Mrs. Morris was internally injured in a wreck near Texarkana in June, 1905.

Convict Post Is Paroled.

Jefferson City.—Albert Ferguson, the poet of the Missouri penitentiary, was paroled by Gov. Hadley to William Marion Reedy of St. Louis, who will be responsible for his future good behavior. Ferguson was sent to the penitentiary from Jackson county on January 22, 1906, to serve ten years for highway robbery. Ferguson made appeals to Gov. Folk for release both in prose and poetry, but without avail.

Accused of Killing Brother.

Columbia.—Henry Baumhoefer, living near Hartsburg, is in jail here on the charge of first degree murder. His brother, Frederick Baumhoefer, who lived on an adjoining farm, was found dead in his barn shot in the head with a shotgun. Both were well-to-do and married. There are no witnesses of the killing of Frederick Baumhoefer.

Prize Awards in January.

Jefferson City.—Music will be the attraction at Columbia, Mo., the first week in January. At that time the special committee appointed by Gov. Hadley to select music for a state song will endeavor to award the prize of \$500. The prize for the words of the song was awarded last summer to Mrs. Lillian Chambers Hall of St. Louis.

Fred Pullen Is Paroled.

Jefferson City.—Glen Hadley issued a parole in Fred Pullen, who was convicted in St. Francois county last May of assault to kill and sentenced to the penitentiary for two years. Pullen is 22 years old and previous to his trouble bore an excellent reputation. He is paroled to J. W. Heber of Boone Terre, Mo.

Silver Trophy for Corn Show.

Columbia.—A silver trophy cup, 27 inches tall, which will be awarded as first prize at the state corn show to be held here during farmers' week at the College of Agriculture, was received by the board of agriculture. Competition is open to any Missouri farmer.

Counterfeiters at Work.

Moherly.—R. A. Curran and J. S. Bowers received counterfeit \$5 bills and spurious silver coins in exchange for goods at their stores. The men passing the bogus money escaped before detection.

Two in Engine Die in Wreck.

Springfield.—Engineer Hugh P. Colvin and Fireman William Sanford Ragan, both of Springfield, were killed, and two passengers injured when the Frisco's Kansas City-Florida special was derailed.

Aged Missourian Frozen to Death.

Warsaw.—The body of Abe Nowlin, 57 years old, was found in the woods by a searching party. It is believed he was frozen to death while on his way to his home, seven miles east, where he resided with his son.

College a Prison in 1861.

Columbia.—Fifty years ago the University of Missouri was occupied as a federal prison for Confederate soldiers. A regiment named Merrill's Horse occupied the university buildings from December till the following June.

Contracts for 31 Bridges.

Warrensburg.—The Johnson county court awarded contracts to a Marshalltown (Ia.) firm for the construction of thirty-one new steel bridges in the county during the coming year.

WASHINGTON NOTES.

An appropriation of \$250,000 to complete the work of raising the wreck of the battleship Maine from the Havana harbor is authorized in the deficiency bill. The sum of \$650,000 has already been expended in clearing Havana harbor of the Maine wreck. The deficiency bill contains a provision authorizing the secretaries of war and navy to donate parts of the wreck to any municipality, naval association or society or to the former officers or members of the crew of the Maine or their heirs or representatives.

The house was treated to an unusual incident when Speaker Clark presented Snyderham E. Ancona of Pennsylvania, a Democratic member of the house when the civil war broke out in 1861. The 87-year-old legislative veteran was given an ovation. The house took a recess of ten minutes in his honor while all its members passed before him, shook his hand and said a pleasant word.

President Taft is anxious the bodies of a number of sailors found in the wreck of the Maine, who are soon to be brought north, shall be interred with all possible dignity. He has written a letter to Secretary Meyer expressing the wish that, if possible, the bodies be brought from Havana on one of the large vessels of the navy, conveyed by another vessel.

Investigation of charges of oppression, negligence and indifference to the welfare and comfort of inmates of the national soldiers' home near Los Angeles, Cal., was urged, and millions of dollars were made beneficiaries conditioned upon the bringing of their names before the senate in a speech by Works of California.

The house passed without a roll call and practically without opposition the eight-hour bill unanimously reported by the committee on labor. The bill provides that no workman shall be required to work more than eight hours by contractor or subcontractor while employed on government work.

Brig Gen. Crozier, chief of ordnance, told the committee on military affairs that the United States has sufficient ammunition in reserve to supply the army, navy and militia for three and one-half years. This reserve stock is carried as an insurance against war and is constantly added to.

Representative Austin of Tennessee introduced a bill appropriating \$150,000 for the relief of the sufferers from the mine explosion at Irtville, in that state, December 9. The bill specifically authorizes the secretary of war to expend the money in his discretion for the relief of the sufferers.

The Cummins' bill, to give right of appeal from the decree in the American Tobacco company reorganization case to the supreme court of the United States, was discussed in the senate committee on the judiciary and referred to a subcommittee.

With decreases in the production of eleven important farm products, not including cotton, the total value of these crops this year reached the total of \$2,783,347,000, according to the final estimate announced by the department of agriculture.

Representative Ruben of Missouri introduced a bill striking at the annual "millage grab" by congressmen. He would reduce the allowance of 20 cents a mile to 10 cents a mile for the round trip from their homes to Washington each session.

The president and Mrs. Taft entertained the members of the cabinet and their wives at dinner. Several members of both houses of congress also were guests. After the dinner a musicale was given in the White House parlors.

Maj. Gen. Leonard Wood, chief of staff of the army, favors the restoration of the canteen to army posts. He declares in his annual report that the consensus of opinion in the army is that the canteen should be reestablished.

President Taft's letter of transmittal accompanying the report of the Vreeland commission, which recently established that the battleship Maine was destroyed by an explosion from the outside, was read.

Senator Penrose presented a bill to provide a six-day week, an eight-hour day and extra pay for overtime for mail carriers in city delivery service, and clerks in first and second class postoffices.

Representative Mondell addressed the house at length on the necessity for a vigorous anti-trust program, such as President Taft and Attorney General Wickersham are not prosecuting.

Senator William Lorimer's appearance before the Dillingham special committee of the senate was postponed until after the Christmas holiday recess of congress.

A bill providing for the refund of the "cotton tax" was introduced by Representative Oldfield of Arkansas.

Senator Oliver of Pennsylvania told the steel trust investigators that much of Andrew Carnegie's great prosperity was due to "secret rates" or rebates. The senator testified that the rates on ore in the Pittsburgh district now are entirely too high, and that the steel trust benefits accordingly.

Senator Cullom of Illinois introduced a bill to give Mrs. John R. Tanner, widow of Gov. Tanner, a pension of \$50 a month. Mrs. Tanner was the second wife of Gov. Tanner and now lives in Springfield, Ill.